Internet connection to CEDT, Imphal

1329. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received an application for providing a 64 kbps lease line internet connection to the Centre for Electronic Design and Technology of India, Imphal; and

(b) by when the facilities would be provided to the Centre?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) A Remote Access Server has been commissioned at Shillong and its linkage alongwith other associated equipments with the National Internet Backbone (NIB) node at Calcutta is likely to be completed in another month's time. The desired leased line will be provided immediately thereafter.

Meanwhile to meet the urgent requirement of CEDTI, a dedicated line from Imphal is being organized terminating on a PSTN Dial-up Internet Port at Shillong.

Problems faced by Software and Hardware Units

1330. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have discussed in depth the basic problems passed by the Software and Hardware units recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the memorandum received from the professional/industry organization alongwith action taken/proposed thereon;

(c) the details of major policy initiatives taken/under consideration to boost up investment and consequent growth of IT in India to emerge as global leader; and

(d) the details of steps taken/proposed to strengthen and upgrade technical institutional network in the country, State-wise alongwith joint ventures proposed?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Problems of the hardware and software units have been discussed by the

National Task Force on Information Technology and Software Development who submitted action plan report in 3 parts. The first report emphasized the policy frame work required for creating an ambience for the accelerated flow of investment into the Information Technology (IT) sector, with specific orientation towards the software industry. Second report relates to policy instruments for the development, manufacture and export of IT hardware and third report relates to the Long Term IT Policy.

The first report has been accepted by the Government.

The latest status of its implementation is as given below:—

Recommendation implemented	:	64
Recommendation not implemented	:	4
Recommendation not accepted	:	3
Recommendation on going	:	37
TOTAL	:	108

The second and thrid reports are under consideration of the Government.

The details on incentives provided to the IT Industry are given in the statement-I (*See* below).

(d) Various measures taken in this regard are:

- *Computing and networking facilities in the Indian Institutes of* Technology (IITs) (at Chennai, Delhi, Kanpur, Khargpur, Mumbai and Guwahati) are being upgraded to global standards.
- Indian Institutes of Information Technology have been set up at Gwalior and Allahabad in Central sector and Hyderabad, Bangalore, Calcutta and Trivandrum in the State sector.
- Intake to graduate and postgraduate programs is being increased in premier institutions like IITs and Regional Engineering Colleges (RECs).
- All India Council of Technical Education is encouraging new self-financing engineering colleges in IT related programmes and also *increase in intake in other institutions [for the Master of Computer* Application (NCA programs].
- Activities of National Centre for Software Technology (NCST) are being expanded at Bangalore (Karnataka) and Navi-Mumbai

(Maharashtra) to impart advanced education and training in software technology.

- Advisory Committee on Information Technology has suggested upgradation of 43 Engineering Colleges (details are given in the statement-II below) as IIT type institutions.

Statement-I

Incentives to IT Sector

To encourage and promote information technology business abroad, the Government of India has abolished licensing and simplified the procedures to make them transparent. The following major steps have been taken to promote export of IT Sector.

1. To provide legal framework so as to facilitate Electronic Commerce in the country, the Government has drafted Information Technology Act. The Act provides legal framework for amongst others recognition of electronic contracts, prevention of computer crimes, and electronic filing/documents. The mechanism of digital signature has been approved to address the issues of jurisdiction, authentication and origination.
2. Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme at 5% duty.
3. Foreign direct Investments up to 100% allowed.
4. Software Technology Parks Scheme.
5. Special Stock Option Schemes for Indian Software Companies linked with ADR/GDR offering.
6. Working Capital Finance to Information Technology and Software industry.
7. Sweat Equity has been introduced in the Companies Act.
8. Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) access up to 50% of FOB value to exports for units under Export Oriented Unit (EOU)/ Export Processing Zone (EPZ)/ Software Technology parks (STP) Scheme.
9. Depreciation on Computer @60% per annum.
10. Reduction in custom duty on computer and peripherals to 15%. The customs duty on all storage devices, integrated circuits,

microprocessor, data display tubes and deflection components of colour monitor is @0%.

11. Software exempted from custom duty and excise duty.

12. Relaxation in income tax to software units under EOU/EPZ/STP Schemes.

13. Exemption of withholding tax on interest on External Commercial Borrowings.

14. Computer systems have been made freely importable. The donation of used computers to educational institutes, hospitals etc. have been permitted duty free from units in EOU/EPZ/STP/Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP).

15. Exemption on income from dividents on Venture Capital Fund.

16. "Business Support Centre" been opened in "Silicon Valley" California, USA to assist small and medium enterprises in establishing strategic alliance in the US.

Statement-II

List of Engineering Colleges

	Regional Engineering Colleges	State
1.	Regional Engineering College, Warrangal	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Regional Engineering College, Silchar	Assam
3.	Regional Institute of Technology, Jamshedpur	Bihar
4.	Sardar Vallabhbhai Regional College of Engg. & Tech., Surat	Gujarat
5.	Regional Engineering College, Kurukshetra	Haryana
6.	Regional Engineering College, Hamirpur	Himachal pradesh
7.	Regional Engineering College, Srinagar	Jammu & Kashmir
8.	Karnataka Regional Engineering College, Surathkal	Karnataka
9.	Regional Engineering College, Calicut	Kerala
10.	Maulana Azad College of Technology, Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh
11.	Visvesvaraya Regional Engineering College, Nagpur	Maharashtra
12.	Regional Engineering College, Rourkela	Orissa
13.	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Regional Engineering College, Jalandhar	Punjab

14.	Malviya Regional Engineering College, Jaipur	Rajasthan
15.	Regional Engineering College, Tiruchirapalli	Tamil Nadu
16.	Motilal Nehru Regional Engineering College, Allabahad	Uttar Pradesh
17.	Regional Engineering College, Durgapur	West Bengal

Other Leading Engineering Colleges

18.	Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
19.	Andhra University, Waltair	Andhra Pradesh
20.	Assam Engineering College, Jorhat	Assam
21.	Bihar Engineering College, Patna	Bihar
22.	Birla Institute of Technology, Ranchi	Bihar
23.	Delhi Engineering College, Delhi	Delhi
24.	Delhi Institute of Technology, Delhi	Delhi
25.	Jamia Milia Islamia, Delhi	Delhi
26.	LD College of Engineering, Ahmedabad	Gujarat
27.	MS University, Baroda	Gujarat
28.	University of Vishveshvariayya, Bangalore	Karnataka
29.	Govt. Enginerring College, Thrissur	Kerala
30.	Shri GS Institute of Technology & Science, Indore	Madhya Pradesh
31.	VJTI, Mumbai	Maharashtra
32.	Government College of Engineering, Pune	Maharashtra
33.	North-Eastem Hill University	Meghalaya
34.	Thaper Institute of Technology, Patiala	Punjab
35.	BITS, Pilani	Rajasthan
36.	Anna University, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
37.	PSG College of Technology, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
38.	Roorkee University, Roorkee	Uttar Pradesh
39.	Benaras Hindu University, Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh
40.	Harcourt Butler Institute, Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh
41.	Punjab Engineering College, Chandigarh	Union Territory
42.	Jadavpur University, Calcuuta	West Bengal
43.	Bengal Engineering College Howrah	West Bengal